

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00748 021251Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /070 W

----- 130308

R 021220Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0053

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TATGS: PFOR, SA, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE PEACE TALKS BREAK OFF

REF: (A) JIDDA 560

(B) JIDDA 427

(C) JIDDA 299

SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT DELEGATION LED BY NUR NISWARI HAVE BROKEN OFF WITHOUT AGREEMENT. SAUDI PRESS FEBRUARY 2 SAYS TALKS WILL RESUME IN APRIL BUT IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE RESUMPTION, MUCH LESS THE DATE, HAS BEEN DEFINITELY AGREED UPON.

END SUMMARY.

2. MELCHOR AND THE GOP DELEGATION DEPARTED JIDDA FOR RIYADH AND HOME ON JANUARY 29. MELCHOR WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MET WITH ACTING MIN STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAS'UD IN RIYADH TO GIVE HIM HIS FINAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE TALKS BUT THEY CROSSED WHEN MAS'UD WAS UNEXPECTEDLY REQUIRED TO RETURN TO JIDDA. MELCHOR AGREED TO SEND  
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00748 021251Z

A LETTER OUTLINING GOP VIEWS.

3. WHILE IN RIYADH ON JANUARY 30 MELCHOR WAS RECEIVED BY DEP PRI MIN AND MIN INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD (GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE KINGDOM AFTER THE KING). WE HAVE NOT LEARNED WHAT WENT ON AT THIS MEETING BUT SUSPECT IT WAS CONFINED TO GENERALITIES. THE FACT THAT HE WAS RECEIVED BY FAHD AND PHOTOS OF THEIR MEETING WERE FRONT PAGED IN THE SAUDI PRESS IS AN INDICATION THAT THE SAG WAS NOT DISPLEASED AT THE WAY THE GOP HANDLED THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THIS WAS CONFIRMED TO US FEBRUARY 1 BY FONOFF DIRECTOR OF EASTERN AFFAIRS, AHMED SIRAJ, WHO SAID THAT THE GOP SIDE APPEARED SOMEWHAT FLEXIBLE WHILE INSISTING ON FULL RESPECT FOR PHILLIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY IN THE MUSLIM AREAS. HE FOUND THE INSURGENT SIDE'S DEMAND FOR AUTONOMY WITHIN THESE AREAS--INCLUDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY--TO BE MORE THAN THE GOP COULD BE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO ACCEPT. ACCORDING TO SIRAJ, MNLF DELEGATION, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT WAS SECOND ECHELON, MAINTAINED A RIGID POSITION AND IN FACT ACTUALLY STIFFENED ITS TERMS AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE TALKS. SIRAJ INDICATED THAT SAUDI OFFICIALS FOUND THE MNLF'S "FANATICISM" SOMEWHAT DISTASTEFUL BUT THAT THE SAG DID NOT ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE TALKS, REMAINING THE NEUTRAL HOST. SIRAJ HAD THE IMPRESSION ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT SEC GEN TUHAIMY WAS STILL AN ACCEPTABLE INTERMEDIARY FOR BOTH SIDES.

5. SIRAJ SAID HE EXPECTS THE TALKS TO RESUME, PROBABLY IN JIDDA, AFTER THE MNLF DELEGATION HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REPORT AND CONSULT WITH MUSLIM LEADERS BACK IN THE PHILIPPINES.

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